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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[23 May 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Ongoing Unprecedented Atrocities in Iraq

It seems as if there is a lack of strong international political will to protect Iraqi civilians against IS atrocities. The terrorist group is going on committing ethnic cleansing in Iraq with impunity.

According to local officials, in the first few days after capturing the capital city of a major Iraqi region, IS militants likely killed as many as 500 people in the city of Ramadi, and forced 8,000 to flee their homes.[1]

There are numerous reports of IS atrocities such as, mass murders of civilians in the history of the group's terrorist activities including the mass beheading of 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians for their religion[2], 150 women and underage girls for refusing to marry militants[3], and 300 Yezidi hostages for their religious beliefs[4]. This is while the heinous pictures of the hostages who were burned alive are burned into the minds of human right activists and many ordinary people. The world is watching while many innocent civilians are massacred right before the eyes of the international community which does not appear to be determined to stop the terrorists from committing even more crimes.

More than 2 and a half million[5] Iraqis are displaced because of the IS attacks and due to the ongoing violence have little hope of returning to their homes. The refugees are in need of shelter, food, water and safety. Many of them are living in tents which are exposed to sever weather conditions. Sometimes the tents are overcrowded, making it difficult for refugees to tolerate the situation. Refugee children are deprived of their right to education and many refugees are suffering from chronic diseases and are traumatized by witnessing savage violence.

Apart from human tragedies created by IS in Iraq, the country's archaeological treasures are ruined by the terrorist group. The country has lost a considerable amount of its cultural heritage in the fight with IS militants including the destruction of 2,000-year-old city of Hatra[6], 3,000-year-old city of Nimrud[7], the mosque believed to be the burial place of the Prophet Younis, or Jonah[8], the Mosque of the Prophet Jirjis[9], landmarks in the ancient city of Dur Sharrukin, and Mosul museum[10]. Terrorists insist upon erasing the history of humanity by erasing the heritage of Iraq.

IS atrocities are not limited to Iraq, the terrorist group is involved in crimes in Syria, Egypt and even Saudi Arabia. On May 22, 2015, an IS suicide bomber attacked a Shiite mosque in Saudi Arabia, killing 21 innocent people and wounding 81 including women and children.

Also in Syria the world has grown weary of seeing the IS cruelty. The group now controls "50 per cent of the country's territory" committing unprecedented crimes against humanity. On May 21, 2015, it was reported that IS seized the ancient Syrian city of Palmyra, executing 17 people. At least 460 people were killed in the battle for Palmyra

1 . http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2015/05/18/iraq-official-500-killed-8-000-fled-as-ramadi-fell-to-is
2 . www.cnn.com/2015/02/15/.../isis-video-beheadings-christians/
3 . www.dailymail.co.uk/.../Single-Islamic-State-militant-killed-1...
4 . http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/iraq/11579854/Islamic-State-executes-300-Yazidi-hostages-in-Iraq.html
5 . http://www.rescue.org/blog/forgotten-humanitarian-crisis-iraq-photos
6 . http://www.wsj.com/articles/islamic-state-destroying-another-iraqi-historical-site-1425746226
7 . www.dailymail.co.uk/.../Video-Islamic-State-group-destroys-anci
8 . http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/24/isis-militants-blow-up-jonah-tomb
9 . http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/28/islamic-state-destroys-ancient-mosul-mosque
10 . http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/09/iraq-condemns-isis-destruction-ancient-sites

that began on May 13, including 49 who were executed by IS, nine of them children.[11]Regretting the fact that the fire of violence is burning at full blaze against civilians and minorities especially in Iraq and Syria, the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) echoes the pledges of Iraqi NGOs for supporting both their people and government in the defense of their sovereignty.

Expressing its deepest regrets about the continuation of violence by IS and in line with the serious concerns expressed in UN resolution A/HRC/28/L.29, ODVV calls on the international community to adopt more effective measures to protect civilians against the IS on-going atrocities and assist the Iraqi government to help the victims of IS crimes including the internally displaced people.

Voicing great concerns about the reluctance of international powers to help innocent civilians, ODVV calls on the UN to seek urgent political solution to tragic humanitarian crisis created by IS.

11 . http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-05-22/is-executes-17-people-in-syria-palmyra-monitor/6488662